



CARITAS AUSTRALIA PROJECT COMPASSION

Unite Against Poverty this Lent

PATRICIA'S STORY SOLOMON ISLANDS

PRIMARY (F TO 2)

PHOTO STORYBOOK

Patricia carrying a bucket of water. Photos:
Caritas Australia



We all need clean water. What happens when clean water is far from home?



Patricia is 14 years old. She lives in the Solomon Islands with her family.



In the Solomon Islands, many people do not have clean water close to home.



Every day, Patricia helped her family. One job that took a long time was collecting water.



The water was far from home. Patricia and her mother had to walk a long way through a hilly rainforest.



‘I had to carry very heavy buckets and containers over a long distance’

- Patricia



The walk was not safe. Sometimes Patricia and her mother had to wait in long lines to fill their buckets and did not get home until after dark.



Collecting water took about two hours every day. Patricia was often tired, which made it hard to study and go to school.



With help from Caritas Australia's partner, Patricia's village now has a new water system, bringing clean water closer to their homes.



Patricia can now get clean water quickly and safely.

A young girl with dark skin and hair is standing outdoors at a public water tap. She is wearing a white t-shirt and a colorful patterned skirt. She is holding a green bucket with a metal handle, and water is pouring from the tap into it. She is also holding a clear plastic bottle in her other hand. The background shows a concrete wall and some greenery.

‘We can easily
drink clean water,
so we don’t get
sick.’

- Patricia



This gives her more time for her family, for play and for learning.



One day, Patricia hopes to be a teacher like her father.



Clean water gives Patricia time to learn, time to dream and time to build her future.



You are helping families like Patricia's when you share her story and support Project Compassion.

QUESTIONS

1. Where does Patricia live?
2. Why was collecting water hard for Patricia and her mother?
3. How did collecting water affect Patricia's life?
4. What changed in Patricia's village?
5. What can Patricia do now that water is close to home?
6. How will you share Patricia's story with others?